

MY WATER SMELLS MUSTY

POSSIBLE PROBLEM	HEALTH CONCERN?	OTHER CLUES & CONSIDERATIONS	CONFIRM IT	POSSIBLE FIXES	LICENSE REQUIRED FOR FIX?	STATE FUNDS?	MORE INFO
Iron Bacteria See Iron Bacteria brochure.	No, iron bacteria live off iron in the water. They are a nuisance, but not a threat to your health. There is no drinking water standard for iron bacteria.	Is there slime in your toilet tank? Is there evidence of iron in your water; for example, red stains on fixtures or on laundry? Has there been a period of no or little water use?	Request a lab test for iron bacteria. Laboratories certified to test for coliform bacteria may also test for iron bacteria. Ask the lab.	Flush system and use more water	No	No	Bacteriological Contamination of Drinking Water brochure. University of Extension National Ground Water Association Water Systems Council National Sanitation Foundation
				Periodic shock chlorination	No, but licensed Well Drillers or Pump Installers have the knowledge and equipment.	No	
				Well cleaning	No, but licensed Well Drillers or Pump Installers have the knowledge and equipment.	No	
				Continuous pellet chlorination	Licensed Pump Installers or well owners must install. DNR recommends that license holders install. Requires advance DNR approval. See Pellet Chlorination application .	No	

MY WATER SMELLS MUSTY

POSSIBLE PROBLEM	HEALTH CONCERN?	OTHER CLUES & CONSIDERATIONS	CONFIRM IT	POSSIBLE FIXES	LICENSE REQUIRED FOR FIX?	STATE FUNDS?	MORE INFO
Sulfur Bacteria See Sulfur Bacteria brochure.	No, sulfur bacteria are not a threat to human health and there is no drinking water standard. Hydrogen sulfide gas can be harmful to humans, but not at the levels produced by bacteria in wells.	Sometimes odors are more noticeable after a period of low water use. There are two types of bacteria: sulfur-oxidizing and sulfur-reducing. Hydrogen sulfide gas (produced by sulfur-reducing bacteria) is highly corrosive and can damage plumbing connections, metal piping and well casing. Some sulfur bacteria form deposits that can clog a well screen and pump piping.	Sulfur bacteria samples are difficult to collect and take a long time to analyze. You may wish to have your water tested for iron bacteria instead. Laboratories certified to test for coliform bacteria may also test for iron bacteria. Ask the lab.	Periodic shock chlorination	No, but licensed Well Drillers or Pump Installers have the knowledge and equipment.	No	See above
				Increase water heater temperature temporarily and drain tank	No, but do not attempt unless water heater has a pressure relief valve.	No	See above. This will reduce, but not eliminate sulfur bacteria.
				Replace magnesium anode rods in heater with zinc or aluminum rods if the problem appears to be only with the hot water	No, but recommend a licensed plumber.	No	See above. This will reduce, but not eliminate sulfur bacteria.
				Continuous pellet chlorination	Licensed Pump Installers or well owners must install. DNR recommends that license holders install.	No	See above. Requires advance DNR approval. See Pellet Chlorination Application .